CONFERENCE MINUTES.

HULL.

This conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was held in

the spacious hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on the 25th April, 1847.

At half-past ten o'clock, the meeting being opened by singing, and prayer in due form, it was proposed, seconded, and carried that Elder George Robins preside over the conference, and William Thompson act as clerk. Officers present, 1 high priest, 6 elders, 3 priests, 3 teachers, and 1 deacon. The President gave some excellent remarks and counsel to the several officers and members generally, for the performance of their respective duties, in the rolling on of the great work in which they were engaged; after which the representation of the branches took place.

Hull Branch, consists of 53 members, including 1 high priest, 4 elders, 3 priests, 2 teachers, and 1 deacon, 3 baptized since last conference, and 1 dead. Standing

generally good, and rejoicing in the truth.

Louth Branch, consists of 34 members, including 3 elders, 3 priests, 1 teacher, 1 deacon, 1 cut off. In general good standing, zealous for the cause of truth, and indefatigable in spreading the publications of the church.

Tealby Branch, consists of 12 members, 1 elder, 1 priest, 1 teacher. Rejoicing in

the everlasting gospel.

Crowle Branch, consists of 27 members, 1 elder, 2 priests, 1 teacher, 17 baptized since last conference. Standing good, rejoicing in the gospel, and have tasted of the power and blessings of the same.

York and Goole, contains 13 members, 1 elder, 2 priests, 1 baptized; in the whole 139 members, 1 high priest, 10 elders, 11 priests, 5 teachers, 2 deacons, and 21 added

by baptism.

In the afternoon, the Sacrament was administered; after which the congregation

was addressed by Elder Ballan, of London.

In the evening, Elder Ure of Scotland gave an eloquent address on the Second Advent of the Messiah, and Resurrection of the Saints, which caused the hearts of the same to rejoice, and was listened to by a large, respectable, and attentive auditory. After prayer by the President, the Saints and congregation separated in peace.

GEORGE ROBINS, President. WM. THOMPSON, Clerk.

BELFAST.

This conference, which was held on the 20th June, commenced by singing, and prayer by Elder Samuel M'Clatchey. Priest M'Farland proposed that Elder M'Clatchey preside over this meeting; carried unanimously. Proposed by Elder M'Clatchey that Priest M'Farland act as clerk.

The business then commenced by the President giving them a short address,

concerning the duties of the priesthood.

The following representations were afterwards made:-

The Belfast Branch by Priest M'Farland, contains 10 members and 1 priest, and is in a flourishing condition,—love and union prevailing in their midst.

Hidepark, represented by Priest Biggar, contains 7 members and 2 priests. In

good condition, and a spirit of inquiry begins to exist among the people.

Crawford's Burn, and Hilsborough, represented by Elder M'Clatchey, contain, the former, 9 members and 1 elder; the latter, 7 members, 1 elder, 1 priest, and 1 deacon.

Elder M'Clatchey proposed that the Saints in Belfast be organized in a branch,

and that John M'Farland preside over the same.

Elder M'Clatchey proposed that Brother Adam Balie be ordained teacher for the

Belfast Branch; carried.

Elder M'Clatchey moved that Brother John Biggar and Alexander Caruth, Priests, assist brother M'Farland, as occasion requires. Sister Mulholland's child was then blessed by Elder M'Clatchey.

Proposed by Elder M'Clatchey and seconded by Priest Biggar, and carried

unanimously, that this conference should uphold the Twelve Apostles in their

prayers.

Proposed by Elder M'Clatchey and seconded by Priest M'Farland, that we sustain and uphold Orson Spencer, President of the Church of Jesus Christ in the British Isles.

The conference closed by Elder M'Clatchey making a few remarks on the duties of priests and teachers.

SAMUEL M'CLATCHEY, President.

JOHN M'FARLAND, Clerk.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Staffordshire quarterly conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, met according to previous announcement in the Temperance Hall, Pitt

Street, Burslem, on Sunday, the 16th day of May, 1847.

The meeting was called to order, at about half-past ten o'clock, by Elder Watt, and opened with singing, and prayer by Elder Simpson, after which it was moved by Elder Simpson, and seconded by Elder Mason, jun., that Elder Watt preside over the conference. Carried unanimously.

The President then read the hymn on the 223rd page, "Lord in the morning thou shalt hear," &c., which was sung by the brethren and sisters then present, after which it was moved by the President, and seconded by Elder Simpson, that

Elder Leese, jun., be clerk for the day. Carried unanimously.

President Watt then rose and said, that it was about three months since he came to labour in this conference. He was appointed by the President of this land to come and put it in order, and the first time he ever preached in this county was on the 21st of February last. When he came here he found many good Saints, who had the work of God at heart, but were in a languid and drooping condition. It was the prevailing idea among them that they had been neglected or overlooked by the presidency of this land. The minutes of their quarterly conferences had not been inserted in the MILLENNIAL STAR for some years. When I read over the minute book of this conference I find it has been a place of mighty labourers, such as Willard Richards, Wilford Woodruff, G. A. Smith, and others, and that during their labours in this conference the spirit of God rested upon the Saints, and his work prospered among them. Since that time the vintage has been partially gathered. When I came here I found it something like the gathering of grapes after the vintage is over. We are assembled together to-day in the capacity of a conference, in order to rally our forces and to gather in our scattered troops, to wage a warfare against the principles of error and erect the standard of truth and righteousness. Notwithstanding the principles of the gospel have been promulgated to some extent in this region of country, there are still a great many misunderstandings in the minds of the people relative to our doctrine, and a great many lies and misrepresentations in circulation against the cause of truth. The devil is at work with all his might, endeavouring to darken the minds of the people and to set them in array against the great work of God commenced in latter-days. Therefore it is necessary that the officers should lift up their voices and make known the principles of the fulness of the everlasting gospel, that the people may know what we believe in, and be left without excuse. I am happy to say that the officers are learning their duty and that the spirit of God is burning within them and prompting them to do the same. As the minutes of your conferences have not been inserted in the STAR for some years, it will be necessary to represent the different branches in as minute and accurate a manner as possible, so that the President in this land, and also that in America, may understand the true condition in which we stand.

Moved by Elder Lockett, seconded by brother Wood, that we as a conference accept our President, and are satisfied with the course he has taken since he came

among us, and are willing to sustain him. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Elder Westwood, seconded by brother Thomas Brindley, that we sustain and acknowledge Elders Orson Spencer and F. D. Richards as the Presidency of the British Isles, and are willing to abide in their council and instruction. Carried unanimously.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Mason, jun., that this conference adjourn until half-past two o'clock. Carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned with singing, and prayer by the President.

Meeting resumed, according to adjournment, with singing, and prayer by the President.

It was moved by Elder Shaw, and seconded by Elder Simpson, that we sustain and acknowledge the Twelve Apostles of these last days as the presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ in all the world. Carried unanimously.

The number of officers present were 3 high priests, 18 elders, 10 priests, 4

teachers, and 5 deacons.

The President then called for the representation of the branches, which was

given as follows :-

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Moved by Elder Mason, sen., seconded by Elder Shaw, that Brother Isaac Pool be ordained to the office of an Elder. Carried.

Moved by Elder Mason, sen., and seconded by Elder Simpson, that Brother John

Wood be ordained to the office of a Teacher. Carried.

Moved by Elder Lockett, seconded by Elder Mason, that John Ralphs be received into this church by re-baptism. Carried.

Moved by Elder Adams, seconded by Elder Westwood, that Brother Lear be ordained to the office of an Elder. Carried.

Moved by Elder Lockett, seconded by Elder Simpson, that Brother A. Wright

be ordained to the office of an Elder. Carried.

Moved by Elder Adams, seconded by Elder Mason, that Brother William Brunt be ordained to the office of a Priest. Carried.

Moved by Elder Adams, seconded by Brother Brindley, that Brother Mountford

be ordained to the office of a Teacher. Carried.

These were ordained by the President and Elder Simpson.

Moved by Elder Simpson, seconded by Elder Mason, that the brethren and sisters at Penkhull and Stoke Lane be joined to the Stoke branch. Carried.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Westwood, that Elder Wooton con-

tinue STAR agent for this conference. Carried.

Moved and seconded, that the conference adjourn until six o'clock. Carried.

Meeting then adjourned with singing, and prayer by the President.

Meeting resumed, according to adjournment, with singing, and prayer by the President and Elder Mason.

The Sacrament was then administered to the Saints present, by Elders Lockett

and Mason, senior.

The President then delivered a discourse relative to the signs of the times, coming forth of the everlasting gospel and Book of Mormon, and the gathering of the people to Zion, &c., &c.

Moved by the President, seconded by Elder Lockett, that this conference adjourn

until the 1st of August next. Carried.

Moved by Elder Mason, seconded by Elder Lockett, that the minutes of this conference be forwarded to Elder Spencer for insertion in the STAR. Carried.

The conference then adjourned with singing, and prayer by the President.

G. D. WATT, President. WM. LEESE, jun., Clerk

LONDON.

This conference met according to previous announcement, on Sunday, June 6th,

1847, in the large assembly rooms, No 8, Theobalds Road.

The meeting was called to order by Elder John Cooper, prayer being offered by Elder Crump. After a hymn was sung, it was proposed by Elder J. D. Ross, and seconded by Elder Hodgert, that Elder Moses Martin preside over this conference, and brother James Brooks and Elder H. Crump act as Clerks. Carried unanimously.

It was also proposed and seconded that the Church show their approval of Elder Martin as President, and are willing to uphold him in his office and calling by a

show of hands. All hands were raised.

The President then called for the number of officers present, when there appear-

ed elders 15, priests 7, teachers 4, and deacons 4.

Elder Martin addressed the meeting upon the present condition of the church, stating that it was in a most flourishing state in all parts that he had been. He then called for a representation of the several branches in the conference.

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Portsmouth	28	22	11	10	3 5	3	102	447

The statements of the officers were good. The Saints are doing well in all parts of the conference.

It was proposed and seconded that as Elder Crump was about leaving for America, a testimonial be given him, showing their approval of his labours and re-

spect towards him before leaving this conference, and that Elder Martin should

write it out. Carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned until half-past two o'clock. It was again opened by singing, and prayer by Elder J. D. Ross. Elders Savage and J. Booth attended to the ordinance of the Sacrament.

Elder Martin said, if there was any one who had anything to say, they were at

liberty to do so.

The President then called David Blair, Aaron Painter, Robert Farley, and Richard Margetts, to the office of Elders.

Elders J. D. Ross and R. Hodgert attended to the ordination.

Proposed by Elder Ross, seconded by Elder W. Booth, that a collection be taken up in the evening for Elder Martin's wife, to be sent her by Elder Amos Fielding, and that all branches be requested to collect what they can, and pay it into the London branch by Sunday, June 20th, 1847, and that Brothers Shorten, Schibe, Poulter, and J. Booth, be appointed to take up the collection. Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned till half-past six o'clock, when it again commenced, and a numerous and respectable congregation was addressed in an interesting and im-

pressive manner by Elder J. D. Ross.

The meeting was dismissed, after having spent a very comfortable day.

Moses Martin, President.

James Brooks, Clerk.

MERTHYR.

We had a very pleasant conference here on Sunday and Monday, the 11th and 12th ult. There were twenty-eight branches represented in good order—four new branches admitted into the conference. This conference alone, now includes near 50 elders, 79 priests, 50 teachers, and 20 deacons. Baptized in the last two-and-half months, 142. Total, 1153. Ordained, 7 elders, 7 priests, and 5 teachers; confirmed some and baptized some at the close, and some every day since, besides

some who are going into the water just now here.

Monday we enjoyed a splendid tea-party here; and it was splendid, not only in appearance but in taste, and conducted all through in a splendid spirit and style. Not a dissenting voice, not even an angry look of jealousy or malice disfigured any countenance in the happy throng. Over 1000 sat down at the tables, and yet of the fragments left were sold near £2 worth. I never saw so large a company enjoy themselves so well, and in such love and union since I've left our pleasure parties about Nauvoo. The Welsh Saints are certainly improving, before, they could govern themselves and be governed, as well as subduing all sectarians, who mingled with them, by the principle of love. The assembly was addressed after the feast by several elders, both in Welsh and in English, among others, in the latter by brother Mitchell, who labours in Pembrokeshire somewhat successfully.

It is freely admitted, by even our sectarian opposers, that Mormonism is making a fearful havoc among their flocks, all the while they have been proclaiming that it was dying of decline or cholera, natural death, or some foreign epidemics. Now they say, it will not do to let it alone any longer, or it will expose their secret mints and dishonesty; and yet it rushes onward like the mighty Niagara, sweeping all before it, and in its sprays forms a halo which encircles all its votaries with the bands of love or cords of the everlasting covenant of peace. Success to it is my

constant prayer. Amen.

I remain, with my love to Brother Richards, your obdt. servt. and bro.

DAN JONES.

LEAMINGTON SPA.

Dear Brother Spencer,—I have heard it stated by some that the devil was bound, and we were enjoying the thousand years' rest. But I think that what has taken place among us will show, that instead of the devil being bound he is loose, and exercising more power than he has done for some time past.

Our conference was appointed to be held on Sunday, June 20th, at Coventry. In order to attend it, brother and sister Freeman came with brother Currell, who

had been proposed at the council meeting at Stratford-on-Avon, to be ordained to the office of a priest. But as soon as he had expressed his willingness to take the office, some evil spirits (devils) entered him, and declared he should not be ordained, and if he went to the conference they would go too. This was on the 15th, and on the 19th they left home for Coventry, about 20 miles distant. On the road, the devils entered brother C. several times, and four times while passing through the town of Warwick, and were as often rebuked by Elder Freeman, in the presence of many people, to whom he bore a faithful testimony. At length they arrived at Leamington Spa, in order to remain the night, but as soon as they entered the house, the devils began to rage and swear. I got to the house about nine o'clock in the evening. I had scarcely got in before they began to swear at me. I rebuked them, and they came out of him; but as fast as one lot went another came, declaring Currell should not go to Coventry, each party tearing him and trying to kill him: thus they continued until one o'clock, when we lay down until five, when another party came swearing that we should not take him to conference, and tried to choke him. We cast out several lots until eight o'clock, when five of us started to take him with us to Coventry, 10 miles distant. Several times we cast them out on the road, but in coming to Stoneleigh, the struggle was fearful. However, we rebuked them in the name of Jesus, after they had declared we were the servants of the Most High God, as many people were gazing at us we bore a faithful testimony to them, and went on our way. As we drew near to the city, we attracted the attention of the people who were walking out; for the devils came oftener and stronger, swearing by the God that made us, we should not take him to conference. By this time a number of the brethren from Coventry met us; I got them to carry brother Currell, while I walked by his side, and rebuked the devils as fast as they came. We arrived at the room about half-past eleven o'clock, a great crowd following us into the room. I endeavoured to speak to them, but the foul spirits came so often, and what with the noise and confusion of the people, I thought it best to close the meeting. While we were preparing for dinner, some stronger devils took possession of brother C.; we expelled them, and in came two policemen, and took brother Currell to the police-station. I went with him, others following, amid the insults and hooting of the mob, to the station. The superintendent, on hearing the case, ordered brother C. to be locked up for having a devil, and me for casting him out, and thus causing a disturbance. Bail was refused, and we were locked up in a filthy room along with two drunken men. In about two hours we were let out on bail, the police finding themselves wrong in refusing it. On our return from prison the streets were lined with spectators, anxious to see the men who had been locked up - one for having, and the other for casting out, a devil. We arrived at the room about three o'clock, and commenced the business of the conference. Ten branches were represented, consisting of 295 members, 9 elders, 22 priests, 8 teachers, 6 deacons, 4 cut off, and 26 baptized since last conference. The following propositions were put to the meeting:-

That this conference sustain the Twelve Apostles. Carried.

That this conference sustain Elder Orson Spencer as President over the British Isles. Carried.

That this conference sustain Elder F. D. Richards as counsellor to Elder Orson

Spencer. Carried.

Among others it was voted, that brother R. Currell be ordained to the office of a priest. When we laid our hands upon him, the devil entered him and tried to prevent us from ordaining him; but the power of Jesus Christ in the holy priest-hood was stronger than the devil, and after all the endeavours of the powers of darkness to prevent us, in the name of Jesus Christ we ordained brother Richard Currell to the office of a priest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In consequence of what had taken place, many came to our meeting in the evening and paid great attention. The scenes of the 20th of June will long be remembered by us as a day of rejoicing in the glorious manifestation of the power of God, confirming the faith of the Saints, and spreading the sound of the gospel farther

than we could have done it in a long time.

On Monday, the 21st, we appeared before the mayor, and although the policemen did their best to prosecute us, on our promising to take brother Currell from the

town, the mayor dismissed us. Instead of these things doing us any harm it has done us good, and we feel to bless the name of God, to give him all the glory, and shout his praise among the people, and to preach the gospel with renewed energy among the sons of men; and pray for the time to come when the gospel shall have been preached, the devil bound, the reign of righteousness come in, and the kingdom of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ for ever and ever.

I should inform you that when the devil found he was defeated in brother C. he entered a sister, and kept coming in for several hours; as fast as one lot were expelled another lot entered: at one time we counted 27 come out of her. When we rebuked them they would come out, but as soon returned again. How was it they could acknowledge the power, and would damn our power,—damn our gospel, and tear and bite? The sights were awful, but it has done us all good.

I may as well say, that some of the devils told us they were sent, some by Cain, some by Kite, Judas, Kilo, Kelo, Kalmonia, and Lucifer; some of these, they informed us, were presidents over seventies in Hell. The last that came previous to our going to prison, told us he was Kilo, one of the presidents, and his six counsellors. We cast them out thirty times, and had 319 devils, from 3 to 27 coming at a time.

I shall feel obliged for any instruction you can give me on this subject.—Yours,
Thos. Smith.

The above narration will, no doubt, seem new and strange to many who may read it, and perhaps to some incredible—but not to those who are true believers in the word of God. Christ, in his day, told his Elders that in his name they should cast out devils. They went forth, trusting in the virtue and efficacy of their holy calling, and in due time returned, rejoicing that even the devils were subject unto them, although they were baffled at a certain time, and asked the Lord why it was. He told them that kind came not out but by prayer and fasting. It no doubt seemed as inexplicable to them, why they could not cast them out, as it did to Elder Smith, why they should so soon return after being cast out; but brother Smith proved that, by determined resistance in the name of the Lord, they would flee from him. There are some, however, that will not come out but by baptism.

These characters have been the inveterate enemies of the truth from the beginning, and have sought its overthrow whenever it has been revealed to man, and have prevailed on the earth for so long a time, that it is not to be supposed they will remain perfectly quiet and be cast out, without making a resolute effort, and marshalling all their hosts to the contest as well. They were even manifest to Christ in such numbers that they were called "Legion, being many," and acknowledged his power, saying, "we know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God," much as they did that of Elder Smith's and his brethren calling them the "servants of the

Most High God."

Nor are these characters ignorant of the order of God—they have once dwelt in light. Lucifer, the son of the morning, and his companions, constituted a "third part of the Hosts of Heaven," and were near the throne of God in the beginning, being acquainted with the Priesthood, which is without beginning of days or end of life; and while in this exalted station, dwelling among the sons of God, rebelled against the authorities appointed over them, and waged war in heaven, and fought against Michael and his angels, and were cast out and thrust down, and have been the cause or causes of "wo to the inhabitants of the earth," ever since, and will continue to be henceforth more than ever, until the mighty angel having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain in his hand, shall lay hold and bind their Prince or Ruler and cast him into the pit, and shut him up, and place a seal upon him for a thousand years.

No doubt these characters supposed they or their leader ought to have had the rule, as some men now-a-days rebel against the authorities of the church, and arrogate to themselves the right to preside, hence they went and organized themselves into the order of Heaven, counterfeiting the priesthood of the Son of God, that as Christ appointed other seventy also, so they told brother Smith they had, and so have the men, who have been cast out of the church in the last days, gone and organized a

church of their own, counterfeiting the true priesthood; but when they came on a mission to the British Isles, they met with about the same success, only they were not half as diligent in their exertions, as those spirits who contended with Elder Smith; still they were of the same spirit, having been once in the church of Christ on earth, enjoying his spirit and the revelations of his will, until they became the accusers of the brethren, and were cast down from their high standing, being filled with deceit and whatsoever loveth and maketh a lie, going about trying to deceive others—hence they become the children of him who is a liar and the father of lies. This, the scriptures teach us, is to be his mission among men after the thousand years, viz., to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth; and how deplorably successful he and his emissaries have been, for near two thousand years past, in deceiving the world into a belief of anything, and almost everything except the gospel of the Son of God.

In answer to the inquiry, how was it they could acknowledge the power and defy it? I will state: it was because all power in heaven and on earth is given into the hands of him in whose name they they were rebuked, and each time they came out, they, by so doing, acknowledged that power if they had said nothing; but they thought, by making the verbal acknowledgement, to have escaped being cast out; and also, by defying the power, designed to intimidate the servants of God and remain unmolested.

Well may the Saints rejoice in that name which is above every other; who has prevailed against death, and will destroy him that hath the power of death—which is the devil. Yes, though such scenes may cause the Heathen to rage, and the people to imagine vain things, the day is fast approaching when "every eye shall see, every ear shall hear, and every heart shall be penetrated;" then those who have faithfully and truly borne the name of Jesus Christ will realize deliverence from all their enemies. Let the Saints be encouraged, because the stronger than the strong man armed is about to cast out the usurper. Put on, therefore, the whole armour of God and furbish the sword of the spirit by the continual prayer of faith, and the triumph over all our foes will indeed be glorious. F. D. RICHARDS.

A. CAUTION.

Elder Wm. Speakman, of the Carlisle conference, writes that a man, calling himself Tomkinson, and professing to have a letter of commendation from the president of the Macclesfield Branch, is travelling from conference to conference with a very sanctified countenance, and talking much about the doctrines of the kingdom, had borrowed money, and made off with it in a fraudulent manner.

Elder Douglas, President of the Glasgow Branch, writes that a man by the name of Henry Tomkinson, had appeared among them, having a certificate from Macclesfield, professing to be in search of work, was kindly received, fed, and lodged, and received money of a deacon in the branch to assist him; and on Monday, the 19th ult., decamped, having helped himself to 15s. from the pocket and chest of a brother. It is hoped that this ray of light from the STAR, may put a period to his dark course among the Saints.

FREE SEATS.—The sum of 8000 dollars has been raised in Providence, for the purchase of forty-two pews in Grace Church, of that city, to be for ever seats.

Among the gleanings from the American papers we find the following:— "The Mormon Temple, at Nauvoo, has been sold to the Catholic Church for 75,000 dollars." Time will determine whether this is true or not.

The Royal Steamer "Hibernia," left Liverpool on Tuesday, the 20th ult., for the western world, taking, with her complement of passengers, £18,000 of specie.—That is as it should be! Whatever is precious and lovely should go to the west; even the stars, moon, and sun set before us daily their illustrious examples. The gold sovereigns have been obedient to the heavenly instruction by hundreds of thousands for a few months past, and no wonder the Latter-day Saints are anxious to be going. "They are perfectly in the right."